

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

# N.E.W.S

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **HORNE CORRECTS GOVERNOR'S ASSERTION THAT ARIZONA HAS "NO STATEWIDE SYSTEM FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT" FOR TEACHERS**

PHOENIX (Monday, January 9, 2006) - Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne today said Governor Janet Napolitano is incorrect in claiming in her State of the State address that Arizona does not have a statewide system for teacher professional development.

"The Arizona Department of Education is the hub of the statewide system for professional development for Arizona teachers and every division in the Department has a professional development component. One unit alone had 24 academies serving more than 2000 teachers, and that's just the tip of the iceberg," Horne said. "In addition, for the first time ever, professional development is available to teachers online 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Among the professional development resources available through the Arizona Department of Education are: curriculum development, including cross-curricular connections, curriculum mapping and instructional quality; mathematics; reading; science; social studies; writing; assessment, including reading assessment, data-driven instructional decision making, and services dealing with cultural family and school safety issues.

Also, the Department offers training in Best Practices; effective Structured English Immersion strategies; education leadership and its role in student achievement, Arizona High School Renewal Summits, which align to the research of Breaking Ranks II; AIMS Intervention/Dropout Prevention strategies; implementation strategies to develop Rigorous Curriculum, including Advanced Placement, Gifted Programs, and International Baccalaureate programs, and Arizona academic standards.

In addition, the Arizona Department of Education holds Professional Development Leadership Academies - a three-year training program for local schools in developing and implementing professional training systems within districts. The Department also has ongoing Career and Technical Education conferences where CTE teachers keep up with the latest technology and training.

"The people who work hard to ensure these programs are successful are to be commended for their dedication to ensuring Arizona's public school teachers have access to the finest professional development services available," Horne added. "Their efforts are praiseworthy and, most importantly, effective."

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